I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 70/140, the General Assembly reiterated that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights and had the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority was scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and must be rejected, together with theories that attempted to determine the existence of separate human races. The Assembly acknowledged the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit discrimination and segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights. The Assembly emphasized that, despite efforts in that regard, millions of human beings continued to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary manifestations, some of which were taking violent forms.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts that had been made by civil society in support of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and underlined the primacy of the political will, international cooperation and adequate funding at the national, regional and international levels to address all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance for the successful implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Assembly recognized and affirmed that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations was a matter of priority for the international community.

3. In accordance with previous practice and pursuant to resolution 70/140, the present report summarizes information received from various stakeholders. In preparing the report, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) requested information from Member States, national human rights institutions and similar bodies and civil society organizations on the implementation of the resolution. Submissions were received from 17 States: Algeria, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Contributions were also received from the secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. The report also provides an update of the activities of OHCHR in this field.

II. Information received from Member States

Algeria

4. Algeria reported that its national legislation prohibited all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination. Its Constitution expressly provided for the principle of equality for all. That principle of equality was also reflected in national legislation, including the Electoral Code, the Civil Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. Algeria also noted that it had strengthened its activities with respect to the effective implementation of international conventions.

5. Algeria noted amendments to the Penal Code in 2014. New provisions were introduced to criminalize acts of racial discrimination, in particular by introducing penalties against anyone who committed acts of discrimination, exclusion, restriction or preference based on sex, race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin or disability. The reform also extended criminal liability to corporations.

Bahrain

6. Bahrain reported that it had adopted a number of concrete actions aimed at fighting and eliminating all forms of extremism and racial intolerance. Those included the launch of human rights curricula in local universities and the introduction of a press charter, which contained calls to refrain from alignment with racist proclamation, including with regard to contempt or hatred of religions, or those that propagate discrimination based on the opinion or belief of a certain sect in society. Action also included the introduction of a charter of honour for those who preach through religion platforms in Bahrain, calling for adherence to a moderate religious discourse that promotes the values of coexistence and brotherhood and for distancing religious discourse from political agitation and incitement to hatred and discrimination on the grounds of ethnic or ideological affiliation.

7. A number of amendments to labour laws were also introduced that explicitly prohibited discriminatory practices in employment. Bahrain reaffirmed its full commitment to fighting the culture and practice of racial discrimination through the implementation of internationally recognized best practices.

Costa Rica

8. Costa Rica referred to the amendment of article 1 of its Constitution, in August 2015, to affirm the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of Costa Rica as a democratic, free, independent, multi-ethnic and multicultural republic. The new provision served as the cornerstone for the construction of a diverse society that promoted equal opportunities and treatment, as well as the possibility of participating in public and social life for all persons and groups irrespective of their cultural, ethnic, racial, religious or linguistic identity.

9. Costa Rica noted the development of a national policy for a society free of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia for the period 2014-2025. The policy reflected the aspiration of Costa Rica to become a more inclusive and respectful society that was free of discrimination, sensitive to sociocultural and ethnic diversity, governed by democratic principles, in favour of people's well-being and in search of greater social harmony, peaceful coexistence and the coexistence of cultures, people and groups from different backgrounds. The policy targeted at-risk and vulnerable groups as a priority, namely people of African descendant, indigenous or native peoples, migrants and refugees.

10. With regard to people of African descent in particular, the Office of the Presidential Commissioner for Afro-descendant Affairs was established in January 2015 as a permanent institutional platform charged with articulating actions for the

effective fulfilment of the rights of people of African descent. In the same vein, ministries, central government agencies and decentralized institutions were entrusted with the formulation of public policies with a view to implementing the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Cuba

11. Cuba indicated that it had implemented several initiatives, including the elaboration and broadcasting of its national plan for the International Decade for People of African Descent and the promotion of anniversary celebrations honouring people of African descent and the fight against racial discrimination, including the bicentennial celebration of Mariana Grajales Coello.

12. Cuba highlighted various academic activities and other events, including: an Afro-American anthropology workshop; an arts festival; an international festival of socioreligious studies; a cultural gathering of people of African descendant; a history workshop on the life and work of Italo Calvino; the Wemilere Festival of African Roots; a workshop on men and women in the Cuban war of independence; a workshop on Afro-American social and cultural anthropology; a festival dedicated to popular religiosity in the Caribbean region; an activity on Cuban national culture and reality; and a postgraduate course on Africa, transculturation and current Cuban society.

Denmark

13. Denmark noted that, since 2015, the overall responsibility for the prevention of and the fight against hate crimes, as well as annual reporting on the number of hate crimes in Denmark, had been transferred to the Danish national police from the Danish security and intelligence service.

14. To that end, the national police had initiated national monitoring of hate crimes in order to obtain valid and continuous information on the issue. The monitoring would provide information about the actual extent of hate crimes and related developments and would enable appropriate processing of cases.

15. For example, when a criminal offense thought to be a hate crime was subject to police investigation, the local police would report the case to the Danish national police through the monitoring system. On the basis of the cases reported, the Danish national police would draw up an annual report mapping the nature of the hate crimes committed in that given year. The report would provide a national overview and serve as the basis for further considerations regarding efforts to prevent hate crimes.

16. Pursuant to section 266 (b) of the Danish Criminal Code, any person who publicly or with the intent of dissemination to a wide group, issued a statement or other communication threatening, humiliating or degrading persons of a particular group because of their race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religious faith or sexuality would be fined or sentenced to prison for a term not to exceed two years.

Ecuador

17. Ecuador reaffirmed its strong commitment to implementing the International Decade for People of African Descent and referred to its Executive Decree No. 915 of February 2016, in which the realization of the goals and objectives of the programme of activities of the International Decade was referred to as a national priority. In that regard, regular consultations were held between the Government and all relevant stakeholders with a view to developing concrete and efficient policies and public actions to ensure the improvement of the living conditions of people of African descent in several respects.

18. With regard to the right to education, Ecuador guaranteed, among other things, the right of people to learn in and about their own language and culture, specifically through the implementation of an intercultural bilingual education system, which was an integral part of the national education system. The intercultural bilingual education system aimed to develop, promote and implement public policies for intercultural bilingual education, in conjunction with community and social actors, with a view to ensuring the right to a quality education that was culturally and linguistically relevant and that respected the right of people to learn in and about their own language and culture.

19. Ecuador highlighted other measures, including its implementation of affirmative action policies. In that regard, the Constitution provided that the State should take such measures to promote equality in favour of right holders in a situation of inequality. That action-oriented policy has allowed for the design of a series of mechanisms to promote the inclusion of ethnic minorities, with due respect for their collective rights.

20. Eliminating discrimination in the media was also one of the actions taken by Ecuador, in particular through the implementation of the Organic Law of Communication. According to that law, any message disseminated by any means of social communication that created distinction, exclusion or restriction based on grounds such as ethnicity or place of birth, among other things, and that had the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights recognized in the Constitution and in international human rights instruments, or constitute incitement to discrimination, was considered to be discriminatory in nature.

21. In that regard, Ecuador referred to the activities undertaken by its Regulatory Council of Communication and Information, which established strategies for avoiding discrimination and exclusion in and by the media. The Council also carried out activities to strengthen the social role of the media through the training of media professionals and through campaigns aimed at sensitizing the population in order to combat racial prejudice.

22. With regard to combatting xenophobia, Ecuador considered the principle of human mobility and universal citizenship to be important, and advocated the free movement of all inhabitants of the planet and the progressive end of foreign status as a transformative element in the unequal relations between countries, especially North-South relations. Under that approach, asylum seekers and refugees would be granted special protection and be able to fully exercise their rights. In that regard,

Ecuador maintained full respect for human rights and a strong commitment to protecting migrants by recognizing that migrants and refugees had rights. To realize that vision and commitment, Ecuador had formulated a national agenda for equality in human mobility, on the basis of which the efforts of all national actors were managed and directed with regard to guaranteeing the full exercise of the rights of migrants and refugees through, inter alia, the implementation of non-discrimination policies to prevent, control and punish racist, xenophobic and violent practices committed against migrants.

Greece

23. Greece reported the adoption in 2014 of Law 4285/2014, amending Law 927/1979 and the adaptation thereof to European Union Council framework decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. The 2014 law contained specific provisions addressing hate speech with respect to sexual orientation, gender identity and disability. For example, according to article 1, paragraph 1 of the law:

> Whoever intentionally, publicly, orally or through the press, the Internet or any other means or manner, incites, provokes, stirs or encourages actions which may cause discrimination, hatred or violence against a group or persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability, in a manner that endangers public order or poses a threat to the life, freedom or physical integrity of such persons, shall be punished by imprisonment.

24. Greece noted that its Law 4356/2015 provided for the establishment of a National Council against Racism and Intolerance, whose purpose was to develop a comprehensive anti-racist strategy, coordinate all relevant stakeholders and monitor of the application of international, European and national laws. A national action plan against racism and intolerance was also among the tasks of the Council.

25. With respect to operational measures, data collection on racist crimes had been significantly improved following the introduction of a new court computerization system. A unified mechanism and a database for registering alleged incidents of racist and xenophobic violence had been created.

Italy

26. Italy reported that, in accordance with relevant European Union directives, its National Office against Racial Discrimination had progressively expanded its mandate aimed at fighting all forms of discrimination, be it on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, sexual orientation or gender identity. Italy was also specifically engaged in implementing, at the national, regional and local levels, a national strategy for the period 2012-2020 for the inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti communities in Italy, as well as a national strategy to support the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals by countering homophobia and transphobia. Both strategies devoted particular attention

to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in both the private and public sectors, addressing and providing for action with respect to labour, health care, education, access to goods and services and social protection.

27. Furthermore, owing to increasing complaints relating to cases of hate speech, especially online, the National Office against Racial Discrimination established a media and social network observatory on hate speech. The observatory officially started in January 2016 with the aim of finding hate speech online, reporting it for removal and analysing it in order to learn about and further understand it.

28. In October 2015, the secretariat of the Observatory for Security against Discriminatory Acts, as a partner of a European project to prevent, redress and inhibit hate speech in new media, and in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, organized a three-day training workshop for law enforcement agencies with a view to increasing police awareness with respect to preventing and combating discrimination, and hate crimes and hate speech in particular.

29. On 17 September 2015, a triennial national plan of action against racism and xenophobia was adopted by the Government of Italy, following contributions from all relevant institutional representatives and non-institutional stakeholders that took part in its drafting. The national action plan aimed at the implementation of a comprehensive strategy to support national and local policies to ensure full respect for the principle of equality and to counter discrimination, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

30. In terms of overall activities, concrete steps had been taken systematically by Italy to ensure that protection against discrimination was effective and properly enforced. Of particular note were capacity-building activities, including awareness-raising campaigns and related events, on the occasion of the "National Week against Racism", organized by the National Office against Racial Discrimination over the years with an increasing number of relevant stakeholders, and of the "National Week against Violence", run by the Department for Equal Opportunities and implemented within the national school system in particular.

Lithuania

31. Lithuania recently adopted the Code of Administrative Offenses, which would enter into force as at 1 January 2017 and which deemed hatred or discrimination on the grounds of race and ethnicity to be an aggravating circumstance.

32. On 17 December 2015, Lithuania adopted draft amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, implementing Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012, as a means of providing reparations to victims of crime, including to victims of racial discrimination. The amendments to the Code included additional procedural protection guarantees for victims and provided for the assessment of the special protection needs of the victims.

33. In 2015, the Government approved the fourth national action plan for the promotion of non-discrimination for the period 2015-2017. The plan included

provisions to reduce discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, nationality, language, origin, social origin, faith, convictions or views, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity and religion by raising public awareness and fostering respect for human rights.

34. In 2016, the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, together with the National Equality and Diversity Forum, organized the third National Equality and Diversity Awards.

35. In April 2015, the police department, under the Ministry of the Interior, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. A training programme for the Lithuanian police on combating hate crime was developed in accordance with the memorandum.

36. According to the Law on Provision of Information to the Public, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics was charged with the responsibility to monitor public information in the media, with the exception of radio and television programmes. In that regard, with the aim of combating hate speech in the public sphere, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics provided the Lithuanian Association of Internet Media with a guidebook to recognize hate speech more promptly. The guidebook provided instructions to Lithuanian online media establishments on monitoring the speech of online commentators and on removing comments that reflected hate speech.

Mexico

37. Mexico noted that, with regard to public policies, the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination had published a catalogue of measures for equality, which was based on policy concepts and which provided a framework that gave substance to equality measures, including control measures and measures for inclusion and affirmative action that were clearly set out in the Federal Act for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination.

38. In 2015, the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination had published the seventh volume in its series on the collective rights and constitutional recognition of Afro-Mexicans, which aimed at encouraging Mexico to fulfil its obligations in guaranteeing the rights of Afro-Mexicans.

39. Other important activities undertaken included awareness campaigns such as the "No Tags. Discrimination does not define us" campaign, based on the "No Hate Speech Movement" campaign of the Council of Europe. Other "#NoTags" campaigns targeting young people have been implemented since 2014.

40. In September 2015, the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination launched the "XeNOfobia" campaign with the slogan "Prejudices are their burden", aimed at fighting xenophobia towards migrants. The campaign took place over the course of two months.

41. Mexico drafted a work plan on the International Decade for People of African Descent aimed at consolidating the activities that different Mexican authorities would be implementing for populations of African descent in Mexico.

Peru

42. Peru noted that its Ministry of Culture was the governing entity in matters of national ethnic and cultural plurality. The Ministry, among other functions, fostered national identity and promoted cultural development through intercultural dialogue and the recognition of cultural diversity among Peruvians.

43. Under the framework of the functions and competencies assigned to the cultural sector, the Vice Ministry of Interculturality had developed a specific line of work that allowed for the articulation of policies and actions in conjunction with various levels of Government, various sectors under Executive authority, as well as civil society. That included the creation, development and strengthening of the platform for action against ethnic and racial discrimination entitled "Alert against Racism"; the promotion of norms by the Office of Cultural Diversity and Elimination of Ethno-Racial Discrimination in order to prohibit and prevent racism and acts of racial discrimination based on ethnic or racial motives; and the coordination of branches of the Office of Culture.

44. Such actions also included advocacy in the media and in public spaces with the purpose of bringing visibility to the problem of racism and ethnic and racial discrimination in the country, as well as to sensitize citizens to the problem by offering them useful information on how to prevent and denounce discriminatory acts. One of the most visible experiences had been the campaign "Be Alert against Racism in Football", which had had a great impact on citizens, opinion leaders in the community, the media and football teams.

Qatar

45. Qatar reported that combating racism was a national priority and was considered to be of the utmost importance given that the population of Qatar had the one of the highest percentages of foreign residents of any country in the world.

46. Qatar was keen to ensure that expatriates live in peace and security, free from all forms of racism or xenophobia. Qatar respected cultural diversity and recognized the right of expatriates to maintain their lifestyles and to practice their religious rituals, taking into account the traditions of Qatari society and the need for tolerance and mutual respect.

47. Qatar referred to its "Qatar National Vision 2030" programme, which set forth a comprehensive vision for Qatar. It stressed the State's appreciation of foreign expatriates as a productive and efficient force in the country's development, and that attracting and keeping the right mix of skills would require the provision of appropriate incentives and the setting of regulatory procedures that protected the rights of expatriates and ensured their safety. It also promoted the spirit of forgiveness and charity and encouraged constructive dialogue and openness to other cultures.

Saudi Arabia

48. Saudi Arabia noted that the Basic Law of Governance contained provisions that prohibited discrimination. For example, article 8 stated that governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was based on justice, *shura* (consultation) and equality according to Islamic sharia; article 26 stated that the State should protect human rights in accordance with sharia; article 46 stated that the Judiciary was an independent authority and that the decisions of judges should not be subject to any authority other than the authority of Islamic sharia; and article 47 stated that all people who were either citizens or residents in the Kingdom were entitled to file suit on an equal basis.

49. There were laws in Saudi Arabia that prohibited the publishing of material promoting racial supremacy or racial hatred, and provided for punishment, including for acts of violence that were based on those thoughts. Those laws prohibited the establishment of organizations and the hosting of activities that advocated racial discrimination or encouraged it. Pursuant to those laws, anyone who abused his authority as a government employee or who practiced racial discrimination in any form was to be questioned and held to account.

50. The National Society for Human Rights ensured that government agencies applied laws and regulations relating to human rights and uncovered violations and practices that infringed upon human rights. It also followed up in applying related international human rights agreements that the country had signed, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in accordance with sections 1 and 3 of article 5 of the Society Law, as enacted in Council of Ministers decision No. 207 of 12 September 2005. The National Society for Human Rights had conducted many workshops aimed at educating police and other law enforcement officers on human rights and at increasing the readiness and prevention of human rights violations, including acts of racial discrimination and xenophobia.

51. Saudi Arabia referred to the role played by the King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue, which, inter alia, conducted meetings in which representatives of many sectors of society had participated.

52. The goal of the King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue was to enhance awareness through dialogue on culture and human rights and to eliminate extremism, hatred and discrimination in all its forms, including racial discrimination. The Centre cooperated with government agencies to achieve its goals. One example of such cooperation was the agreement that the Centre had signed with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Da`wah and Guidance to train imams at many mosques in the promotion of cultural tolerance in the community through their speeches and lectures and other activities.

Sudan

53. The Sudan reported that it had taken practical and tangible measures for the protection and development of human rights, including the elimination of modern manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all that was related

to intolerance. Those measures were based on laws, policies and national programmes put in place since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in 2001. The Sudan noted that the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference was reflected in constitutional, administrative and legislative measures.

54. The Sudan noted that its Constitution had banned discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, or any other distinction.

Turkey

55. Turkey noted that its constitutional system was based on the equality of all individuals before the law, without discrimination and irrespective of language, race, colour, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion and sect, or any such considerations.

56. Existing Turkish legislation, including in the context of the Constitution, the penal and civil codes, laws relating to labour, civil servants, political parties, the carrying out of penalties and security, national education, the establishment of radio and television enterprises and their media services, social services, the establishment of ombudsmen, the establishment and duties of the Turkish Football Federation, the prevention of violence and disorder in sport, the establishment and duties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discipline in the Turkish Armed Forces, provided for the prohibition of and protection against discrimination and racism.

57. According to the Law on Anti-Discrimination and Equality, it was prohibited to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, colour, language, belief, ethnic origin, philosophical or political opinion, social status, marital status, state of health, disability or age.

58. The Law envisaged the establishment of an anti-discrimination and equality board that would monitor complaints of discrimination in the public and private sector, and a consultation board that would assist the anti-discrimination and equality board by bringing together representatives from universities, trade unions, professional bodies, associations and foundations, as well as representatives of public institutions working to combat discrimination and inequality.

59. The Office of the Ombudsman was responsible for examining and investigating acts by the Administration regarding its fairness and compliance with the rule of law and for making recommendations to the Administration.

Turkmenistan

60. Turkmenistan reported that it continuously engaged in comprehensive work to improve its Constitution and legislative instruments, paying particular attention to harmonizing national legislation with the main international agreements, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

61. The Constitution was the primary legislative instrument in Turkmenistan, providing for the equal enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural and other spheres of public life. Under the Constitution, the State guaranteed equality to individuals and citizens, including equality before the law, irrespective of ethnicity, race, sex, origin, financial or official status, place of residence, language, religion, political convictions or party affiliation or lack thereof.

62. All of the country's legislative instruments accorded citizens equal liberties and equality before the law, irrespective of ethnicity, race, sex, origin, financial or official status, place of residence, language, religion, political convictions or party affiliation or lack thereof. Turkmenistan, which was party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had incorporated virtually all of the provisions of the Convention into national legislation.

63. Turkmenistan noted that it had a system of legislative, judicial and practical measures offering firm legal guarantees that any attempted discrimination on racial or ethnic grounds by officials, individuals, groups or institutions would be banned and, if necessary, suppressed. The principle of non-discrimination underpins the operation of all authorities and administrations, at both the local and the highest levels, the electoral system, the organization and work of law enforcement and judicial agencies, and the health-care, social security, education and other systems.

64. Turkmenistan referred to the adoption, in 2012, of the Political Parties Act, which was developed in line with the Constitution and the universally recognized standards of international law. It noted that article 8 of the Political Parties Act prohibited the establishment and activity of political parties that aimed to alter the constitutional order through violence, permitted violence in their activities, opposed the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, advocated war or racial, ethnic or religious hatred or acted in a manner detrimental to the health or morals of the people or that had been formed on the basis of ethnic or religious criteria.

65. Turkmenistan further noted that the fight against racial discrimination was based on the principles of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. At the national level, those principles had been upheld and taken into account both when updating legislation and when enforcing the law. When enforcing international human rights standards, including those relating to the elimination of racial discrimination, the Majlis had actively applied the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference.

Uzbekistan

66. Uzbekistan referred to its national action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and other United Nations human rights bodies.

67. In compliance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, several national institutions dealing with human rights were created in Uzbekistan. Those include the Ombudsman under the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, and the National

Centre on Human Rights of Uzbekistan. The Ombudsman played a significant role in the oversight of human rights legislation. The Ombudsman applied all available means to restore violated rights and to improve Uzbek legislation.

68. The Republican International Cultural Centre was established by decision No. 10, dated 10 January 1992, and decision No.180, dated 8 April 2003, of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Cultural Centre, in cooperation with various ministries and departments, the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, *khokimiyats* (local authorities) of regions, towns and districts, and civil society organizations, participates in the implementation of an overall State policy on interethnic relations.

III. Information received from non-member States with observer status

State of Palestine

69. The State of Palestine noted its commitment to the principles of international law and human rights, as well as its belief in the principles of justice, equality and non-discrimination in the quest to intensify its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination in its occupied territory.

70. Article 9 of the Palestinian Basic Law, as amended in 2005, stipulated that Palestinians should be equal before the law and the judiciary, without distinction based upon race, sex, colour, religion, political views or disability. It also stipulated, in the first paragraph of article 10, that basic human rights and liberties should be protected and respected.

71. The State of Palestine also referred to various penal instruments, including Penal Law No. 16 of 1960, which was in force in the West Bank. Article 130 of that law criminalized acts that weakened the national feeling or stirred racist or sectarian differences. Article (150) of the same law criminalized the stirring of sectarian or racial prejudices, stipulating that any writing or speech which aimed at or resulted in sectarian or racial prejudices or incitement of conflict between different sects or the nation's elements should be punished by imprisonment for no less than six months and no more than three years and a fine not to exceed 500 dinars.

72. The State of Palestine reported that it took into account the fact that the legislation in force in its occupied territory needed to be developed and modified to suit existing contemporary needs and international standards. It had intensified efforts to promote the harmonization of national laws with the international conventions to which it had acceded, incorporating the concept of discrimination into the draft Penal Code submitted by the Council of Ministers.

73. The State of Palestine noted that it continued to develop its efforts to guarantee human rights and eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. Upon the accession of the State of Palestine to various international treaties, the President of the State of Palestine, on 7 May 2014, issued a presidential decree for the formation of the Permanent National (Ministerial) Committee, chaired by the Foreign Ministry and including representatives from a number of ministries and relevant institutions,

along with the Independent Commission for Human Rights as an observer, to pursue the accession of the State of Palestine to international treaties and conventions.

IV. Information received from national human rights institutions

The secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

74. Combating racial discrimination, xenophobia and ethnic intolerance played an important role in the activities of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. An analysis of citizen petitions and the results of monitoring by the Commissioner and non-governmental organizations had shown that a significant number of issues that had given rise to different manifestations of xenophobia, racism and intolerance remained unresolved.

75. Upon the entry into force on 4 October 2012 of the Law on principles of prevention and combating discrimination in Ukraine, the Commissioner, having acquired the status of a national institution, was conferred a number of additional well-defined authorities, with the mandate of combating all forms of discrimination.

76. Despite some progress in combating and preventing racial discrimination and extreme forms of discrimination, hate crimes continued to be of particular concern to the Commissioner. With regard to hate crimes based on racial, national and religious grounds, the Commissioner's monitoring showed that, at the present time there was no proper statistical accounting of those crimes, and official figures contained in the reports of law enforcement authorities are often underestimated. In order to improve the situation, the Office of the Commissioner established cooperation with the main investigation department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the systematic exchange of information related to incidents of hate crimes identified as a result of monitoring.

77. With regard to combating discrimination on grounds of ethnic or national origin, the Commissioner paid special attention to the protection of the rights of the Roma people in Ukraine. In particular, the employees of the secretariat of the Commissioner, in conjunction with Roma human rights organizations, visit places where the Roma community is concentrated for the purpose of constant monitoring.

V. Activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

78. During the March session of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR organized a panel discussion to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to take stock of related challenges and achievements. Experts involved in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action process were invited to share their views and experiences regarding the global fight against racism and racial discrimination and to contribute

to the assessment of the Programme of Action's implementation by identifying relevant challenges and achievements.

A. International Decade for People of African descent

79. Since the launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent in January 2015, OHCHR has been working to strengthen the protection of people of African descent and to promote their rights. OHCHR continued its support to the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent during its sessions in Geneva and its field missions. The Working Group undertook field missions to Italy in June 2015 and to the United States of America in January 2016.

80. The first regional meeting for the Latin America and Caribbean region on the International Decade was held in Brasilia on 3 and 4 December 2015. The meeting was attended by representatives of Member States of the region, civil society representatives, national human rights institutions, academics from some 30 countries and representatives of United Nations agencies and regional organizations. At the close of the meeting, the government delegates adopted a declaration in which they recalled the programme of activities of the International Decade and reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels.

81. Since December 2015, OHCHR Guatemala had provided technical assistance to the Presidential Commission on Discrimination and Racism against Indigenous Peoples in preparing a diagnostic study of the human rights situation of people of African descent and Garifunas in Guatemala. The study had three main objectives: (a) to raise awareness of the cultural diversity of people of African descent in Guatemala; (b) to raise awareness of the current human rights situation of people of African descent in Guatemala, including their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; and (c) to provide strategic guidance to the State in developing a national plan of action for people of African descent in Guatemala. As part of preparation for the study, OHCHR carried out field missions to the Department of Izabal (where the majority of people of African descent in Guatemala lived) and led workshops with people of African descent and State officials. In November 2014, the Government launched the International Decade for People of African Descent in Guatemala and for the first time committed to developing specific policies in favour of people of African descent, which the diagnostic study would help to inform.

82. OHCHR provided substantive support for the elaboration of the national action plan of Mexico for the implementation of the International Decade. The national action plan was launched in mid-2015. OHCHR also provided support for the launch of the International Decade in Chile through its regional office for South America in Santiago.

83. OHCHR participated in the inaugural Black Government Leaders Summit, which was held in Nova Scotia, Canada, from 8 to 10 June 2015, presenting the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade.

84. On 19 September 2016, OHCHR and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with the Frantz Fanon Foundation and the National Committee of France for the Memory and History of

Slavery, organized a meeting in Paris on the theme "International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024): ten years to take action". The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness at the European level of the objectives and challenges of the International Decade, to share national experiences regarding its implementation and to discuss action strategies for key stakeholders to achieve greater synergy of efforts. Other objectives of the meeting included sharing best practices, reflecting on the challenges of the International Decade and suggesting strategies to overcome potential difficulties faced in the implementation of the programme of activities.

B. Racism and sport

85. OHCHR, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation and the Russian football union, organized an initial stakeholder meeting on non-discrimination in football. The objective was to discuss existing practices for exploring the challenges of racial and xenophobic incidents in football and to prevent their occurrence during and after the World Cup tournament of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association that would be held in the Russian Federation in 2018. Following the meeting, the Russian football union and other sport authorities decided to consider the elaboration of a national plan to effectively prevent and combat discrimination and xenophobia in football.

86. Following the first stakeholder meeting, held in October 2015 in Saint Petersburg, Russia Federation, OHCHR organized a meeting on non-discrimination in football at which regional human rights commissioners from the host cities of the 2018 World Cup participated. Following the meeting, the Ministry of Sport and the local organizing committees for the World Cup agreed to find ways to increase the involvement of the regional commissioners in preparations for the tournament at the local level.

C. Database on practical means to combat racism, discrimination xenophobia and related intolerance

87. Throughout the year, OHCHR undertook research and analysis of legislation, policies and institutional measures at the global, regional and national levels, and relevant information was uploaded into the OHCHR database on practical means to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

D. Elaboration of national plans of action and anti-racial discrimination legislation

88. OHCHR continued to support a number of Member States in elaborating and implementing their national action plans against racial discrimination, pursuant to the recommendations of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the Durban Review Conference and Durban follow-up mechanisms.

89. In that regard, OHCHR, at the request of the National Institute against Discrimination of Argentina, supported an assessment of the implementation of Argentina's national plan against discrimination for the period 2005-2015 and the elaboration of an updated national plan for 2016 and beyond.

90. At the request of National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination of Mexico, OHCHR supported the development of the third national action plan to eradicate racism and discrimination and to promote equality in Mexico.

91. OHCHR provided support to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the development of an online tool on the website of its Commission for Protection against Discrimination, enabling victims and the general public to submit concerns in a timely manner. A smartphone application relating to non-discrimination has also been developed.

92. OHCHR, in collaboration with the Human Rights Adviser and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, organized a three-day training of trainers for law enforcement officers on non-discrimination and hate speech. The event was held in the city of Strumica from 22 to 24 June 2016. The training had been requested by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, which is responsible for the organization and coordination of national one-day training sessions for police officers on non-discrimination and hate speech, in line with a government decision. The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of the Interior, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and the Agency for Community Rights Realization. Seventy percent of event participants were women.

93. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, OHCHR supported the training of 70 civil servants on anti-discrimination legislation and public policies and the State's obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

94. OHCHR co-organized with the National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda a training workshop for African national human rights institutions and equality bodies on their role in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Some 30 participants from 13 countries in western, central and southern Africa attended the workshop with the objective of raising awareness of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, sharing experiences and good practices and discussing challenges as well as achievements in Africa with respect to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

E. Media

95. In October 2015, OHCHR, in conjunction with the Russian Union of Journalists and the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine organized a workshop in Geneva for Russian and Ukrainian journalists and media officials on the

prohibition of advocacy of national, racial and religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. The participants highlighted the importance of discussing existing international standards and regional and national frameworks and the need to focus on preventing and combating hate speech. Preparatory national seminars for the workshop were also held in September 2015 in Kiev and Moscow, focused on the problem of hate speech.

96. In April 2016, OHCHR and the United Nations Information Centre in Dakar organized a workshop on the role of the media in combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, with a particular emphasis on combating hate speech and incitement to hatred. Media professionals from West and Central Africa participated in the workshop.

97. OHCHR was working on developing the following tools:

(a) A guide on data collection for the promotion of racial equality;

(b) A user-friendly practical guide on preventing and countering racial profiling;

(c) A data collection tool for the promotion of racial equality in order to provide clear guidance to Member States and other stakeholders;

(d) An online platform for media professionals on combating intolerance and incitement to hatred.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

98. Despite some progress in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, these phenomena remain widespread. No country is, or can claim to be, free from these forms of discrimination. The prohibition of all forms of discrimination is a fundamental tenet of international human rights law.

99. Leadership, stronger political will and urgent measures are needed to reverse the worrisome trend of the past few years of increasingly hostile, racist and xenophobic attitudes and violence. Intercultural dialogue, tolerance and respect for diversity are essential for combating racial discrimination and related intolerance.

100. In order to review progress in the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, all stakeholders are invited to regularly submit updated inputs in accordance with requests for information from OHCHR.

101. Member States, regional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders are encouraged to fully and effectively implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and to intensify collaboration to that end.

102. Member States are encouraged to fully and effectively implement the obligations arising from the International Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Racial Discrimination. States that have not yet done so are urged to ratify or accede to the Convention, with a view to its universal ratification.

103. **The media should play a key role in combating intolerance. In this regard, Member States are called upon to ensure that the media emphasize positive images of various groups and combat hate speech, which must not be tolerated and must be properly addressed by strengthening professional ethics and processes.**

104. **Sport players, sport authorities and other relevant authorities should play an important role in contributing to awareness-raising campaigns for preventing and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and reinforcing the message on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.**

105. **Member States and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to use the potential of sport and mass sport events to educate the youth of the world and to promote their inclusion in sports activities that are free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that are in the Olympic spirit, which emphasizes human understanding, tolerance, fair play and solidarity.**

106. **Member States are encouraged to invite the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to carry out country visits.**

107. **Member States and other stakeholders are invited to participate actively in the deliberations on the mechanisms established in follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to implement the recommendations emanating therefrom.**

108. **Member States that have not yet done so are encouraged to develop and implement national action plans to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.**

109. **In the context of the implementation of the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions and individuals as well as other donors in a position to do so are encouraged to contribute generously for the implementation of the programme of activities.**